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## University of Northern Iowa Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes, February 10, 1986

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Faculty Senate

February 10, 1986

1358

CALENDAR

1. 404 Request from the Graduate College that the Senate approve the Master of Philosophy degree and send it on to Vice President Martin. Docketed in regular order for discussion at the February 24 Senate meeting. Docket 343.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

2. Announcement of the spring semester schedule of activities of the University Club.

DOCKET

3. 402 341 Request from the Department of Modern Languages for new university-wide foreign language competency requirements. Approved motion to substitute to return proposal to petitioner for further clarification and consultation with representatives of the Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Admissions, the General Education Committee and the Committee on Lifelong Learning and that the proposal be returned to the Senate for consideration at the Senate meeting of March 24.
4. 403 342 Recommendation from the Summer School Calendar Committee-- Dr. Geadelmann. Approved motion to accept the report.

The Senate was called to order at 3:32 p.m. on February 10, 1986, in room 108 of the Communication Arts Center by Chairperson Boots.

Present: Baum, Boots, Chadney, Duea, Elmer, Erickson, Glenn, Goulet, Hallberg, Heller, Intemann, Kelly, Krogmann, McCormick, Peterson, Remington, Richter, Story, Amend (ex officio).

Alternates: Wielenga for Scoles.

Absent: None

Members of the press were requested to identify themselves. Anne Phillips of the Waterloo Courier and Elizabeth Bingham and Teresa Forbes of the Northern Iowan were in attendance.

CALENDAR

1. 404 Request from the Graduate College that the Senate approve the Master of Philosophy degree and send it on to Vice President Martin.



Chadney moved, Story seconded, to docket in regular order for consideration at the February 24 Senate meeting. Motion passed.

#### OLD/NEW BUSINESS

2. The Chair reminded the Senate of the activities of the University Club as scheduled for the spring semester.

Senator Kelly pointed out there will be seven noon events and one afternoon reception. He asked that anyone who would like to attend these events please call ahead to help organizers have an accurate measure of demand.

Assistant Vice President Geadelmann pointed out that some of the noon activities are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month which is the same time as Faculty Club events.

Senator Kelly indicated that if changes are needed they will be made and that hopefully they can accommodate and coordinate activities between the two organizations.

#### DOCKET

3. 402 341 Request from the Department of Modern Languages for new university-wide foreign language competency requirements (see Senate Minutes 1356).

The Chair reminded the Senate that the request is for endorsement and transmittal to the faculty for their consideration.

Peterson moved, Erickson seconded, to endorse the request from the Department of Modern Languages.

Dr. Fritz Konig rose to address the Senate. He stated that to the best of his knowledge, UNI has never had a foreign language requirement. Students could take up to five hours under the current general education program but that will not be possible under the new general education program. He stated Modern Languages did not try to get into the new general education program and is not trying for a foreign language requirement though we are the only one of the three state universities that does not have such a requirement in place. He relayed that most schools our size or larger do have a foreign language requirement. Dr. Konig cited a presidential and governors commission's recommendation calling for more offerings in foreign languages. He stated he felt this was best done in high schools rather than the university, and this is why they are seeking a language competency requirement versus an hourly requirement. He pointed out that this competency requirement in no way is attempting to add 15 hours to UNI students' loads. He cited that the request is to be phased in so that most students could complete this requirement through high school work. He projected there may be a slight increase in Modern Language enrollment at the lower level but this will eventually go down because students will complete the requirement in high school.

Senator Heller inquired as to what we know about the high schools' ability to offer three years of foreign language, and what do we know about the course patterns of students who are admitted to UNI.



Professor Oates cited that 30 percent of Iowa high school students are enrolled in a foreign language and that all high schools are required by law to offer two years of a foreign language.

Jack Wielenga pointed out that he has no information on foreign language alone but if foreign language is coupled with other high school recommended courses (four years of English, three years of math, three years of social studies and three years of natural sciences), we find that only 12 percent of all students taking the ACT exams in Iowa have completed all of these requirements.

Senator Kelly inquired if the three years had to be taken in high school or could they be a combination of elementary, junior high and high school work.

Professor Oates indicated the three years was picked as being the amount of time necessary to create language proficiency and some competency.

Senator Baum inquired as to how many high schools in Iowa offer three years of a foreign language.

Professor Oates responded that most of the larger systems do.

Senator Duea suggested that we collect information on if and how high schools would be able to meet the possibility of offering three years of a foreign language.

Assistant Vice President Geadelmann pointed out that the General Education Committee tried to find out about the foreign language requirements at Iowa and Iowa State. Data from 1980 indicate that about 50 percent of students at Iowa and Iowa State had had at least one year of a foreign language before entering those universities.

Senator Hallberg stated he would like to know the impact of a foreign language requirement on the Lifelong Learning program and nontraditional students.

Senator Chadney inquired as to the projected date of implementation of this proposal.

Professor Konig stated that he assumes this would be phased in with the new General Education Program with a potential starting date of 1987 with full implementation by 1991.

Senator Chadney stated that it was unrealistic to require new freshmen in 1987 to meet this requirement since there will be insufficient time for them to modify their high school schedule of classes.

Vice Chairperson Krogmann stated that if we go ahead with our new general education program and add the three semesters of foreign language on top that we may really be hurting long majors and the completion times necessary to earn a degree.

Vice President Martin indicated that he endorsed the language competency idea and hoped that we would provide the public schools ample opportunity to meet our requirements. He suggested we may wish to consider at least initially reducing the high school requirement from three years to two.



Professor Nile Vernon indicated it would be necessary for the university to work with the Department of Public Instruction to coordinate the curricular offerings of Iowa high schools.

Senator Goulet stated he felt the proposal was incomplete and should be returned for further study. He felt three years was too much and two years may be adequate. He also cited his concerns of how we would handle transfer students in relationship to this proposed requirement.

Senator Story inquired as to what type of examinations would be used for exemption.

Professor Oates indicated examinations by ETS are being contemplated.

Professor Darrel Davis indicated that while the General Education Committee supports the foreign language competency requirement, it is concerned with the abilities of the high schools to respond. He also stated that such a requirement should probably not become effective until the freshmen class of 1990.

Senator Hallberg stated that while he agrees with the goal, he felt there is a need for analysis of how to achieve this goal and impact studies on transfers and mature students.

Hallberg moved, McCormick seconded, to substitute by returning proposal to petitioner for further clarification and consultation with representatives of the Office of Academic Affairs, Office of Admissions, the General Education Committee, and the Committee on Lifelong Learning; and that the proposal be returned to the Senate for consideration at the Senate's meeting of March 24.

Senator Story pointed out that we should not lose sight that the foreign language requirement at Iowa and Iowa State are for their liberal arts students. She stated that at UNI most of our subjects are considered liberal arts but the impact will be greater based on the length of some of our majors.

Senator Remington indicated he would like answers to the questions as to what is a high school course, whether that course begins in the seventh grade or the ninth grade, and whether the proposal is for all bachelors degrees at UNI or only for the Bachelor of Arts with other degrees such as the Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Technology being exempt.

Senator Goulet suggested that we may wish to have a two-tiered requirement based on the major of the student.

Question on the motion to substitute was called. The motion to substitute passed.

Question on the substitute motion was called. The substitute motion passed with one dissenting vote.

4. 403 342 Recommendation from the Summer School Calendar Committee--  
Dr. Geadelmann (see Senate Minutes 1356).

Erickson moved, Duea seconded, to accept the report.



Assistant Vice President Geadelmann indicated that this issue is becoming more political. She said the committee tried to be thorough in visiting with high schools and others concerning our starting dates. She cited any further delays in commencing the summer school may create difficulties with the fall schedule. As it is now, there will be only 2 1/2 weeks between commencement and registration/orientation. She noted that both Iowa and Iowa State are keeping their 1987 calendars as previously approved.

Senator Goulet stated that one way to solve any problems was to push the second four- and eight-weeks schedule slightly further back into August.

Senator McCormick voiced his concerns with the loss of instructional days in the first four weeks. He questioned if we could offer instruction on Saturdays or lengthen the instructional periods.

Assistant Vice President Geadelmann pointed out that 79 percent of our summer population is undergraduate students while 21 percent are graduate students, most of whom take work on the eight-week schedule.

Senator Glenn inquired as to why we could not register students on the Saturday before the first day of class.

Senator Remington said he was not sure he wanted to start classes when students were not yet registered. He stated that if we do not register on the preceding Friday or Saturday, registration will interfere with Monday's classes.

Professor McAdams cited that he was proud of the increase in university standards as exemplified by the new general education program and was therefore surprised that we would think about removing two days of instruction from the first four weeks.

Senator Erickson pointed out that historically the first four week session has been one day short of the second four weeks because of the 4th of July holiday. Therefore, this proposal incorporates one extra day.

Senator Story stated that she felt we could deal with public concern over our calendar based on what we offer in the second four weeks and when we offer our workshops. Such courses could, therefore, be offered to fit the demands of returning teachers.

Senator Chadney pointed out that since most of our summer school students are undergraduates, what ever action we take should do the most good for the most number.

Assistant Vice President Geadelmann stated that she did not anticipate any immediate charge from the legislature to have universities start their fall semesters after Labor Day. We could keep our original calendar but if we do, it will be necessary for us to do a public relations job to tell public schools and the state that we will accommodate individual needs for those who can't be here when we start.

Senator Glenn stated that there have been enough questions raised and suggested we send the proposal back for further consideration.

Senator Hallberg stated he could not think of any solution to the problems raised that have not already been discussed by the committee. He is willing to support the proposal to see how it actually operates.

Senator Goulet stated he was surprised that we want everyone to sacrifice to handle the potential needs of a few returning teachers.

Senator Baum questioned if we could provide instruction on July 3.

Senator Erickson pointed out that previously the first four has on occasion had 18 instructional days based on when July 4 fell.

Question on the motion to accept the report was called. On a division the motion passed, ten yes to six no.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed.

The Senate adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Patton  
Secretary

These minutes shall stand approved as published unless corrections or protests are filed with the secretary of the Senate within two weeks of this date Thursday, February 20, 1986.